

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
December 10, 2003

Members/Alternates Present: Ms. Barbara Aras, Mr. Richard Bailey, Mr. Tim Murphy, Ms. Terry Clancy, Mr. Ron Czajkowski, Mr. Robert Dinetz, Ms. Karen Halupke, Dr. David Livingston, Dr. Steven Marcus, Mr. Mickey McCabe, Mr. Alfred Lincks, Dr. James Pruden, Mr. Robert Resetar, Ms. Clarisa Romero, Mr. Tom Starr, Mr. Fred Steinkopf, Ms. Deborah Timpson, Ms. Paula Weiler

Members/Alternates Absent: Senator Palaia, Mr. James Davidson, Mr. Robert Hansson, Ms. Deborah Murante, Mr. Donald Murray, Mr. Craig Reiner, Dr. Jennifer Waxler

DHHS Staff Present: Mr. William Duffy, Ms. Nancy Kelly-Goodstein, Mr. Charles McSweeney, Ms. Linda Taglairino

- Dr. James Pruden called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.
- Minutes from the September 10, 2003 meeting were approved
- Letter & plaque from NYC Fire Department was given to the EMS Council
- Deborah Timpson resigned her position from the Council. Ms. Timpson has accepted a management position with Overlook Hospital (Atlantic Health System)

BY-LAWS - No report

EMS COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. Robert Resetar

- Reviewed and approved revised EMS Communication Plan (last revision 1999, minor changes, technology referenced is up-to-date)
- EMS Guidecards are at the Commissioner's Office
 - Anticipate sending guidecards throughout the state during the first quarter of 2004
- Community Medical Center MICU service is being transferred to MONOC

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Radio systems changing often
- Cell phones are now acceptable

All in favor.

MICU ADVISORY COUNCIL – Dr. James Pruden

- Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA) pilot
 - Do feasibility study
 - Curriculum/operational problems identified and corrected
- UMDNJ is going to embark on a study using Reapro
- Review of electronic charting devices
- EMS awards dinner same location as last year (Note: Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2004)

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Prehospital research studies stalled in state for last five years (issues with informed consent as interpreted by the Attorney General's Office)

MOTION: The EMS Council should send a letter to Commissioner Lacy requesting that the Attorney General's Office be requested to reopen investigation about the issues surrounding informed consent in the prehospital and emergency medicine research in the State of New Jersey. (Ms. Halupke will forward to Drs. Pruden and Livingston a review of the past communications regarding this issue).

All in favor.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) COMMITTEE – Mr. Fred Steinkopf

- Not meeting because of the Blue Ribbon Panel

NEW JERSEY STATE FIRST AID COUNCIL (NJSFAC) – Mr. Fred Steinkopf

- Successful annual convention (October – 2003)
- Superior lecturers, supported by money from the EMT Training Fund
- First Responder to EMT-B crossover pilot program to begin in February 2004
 - Candidates must be active for a minimum of two years with squad
 - Successfully complete the 70-hour crossover course
 - Successfully complete the certification exam
- LMA – Pilot program in Hunterdon County
 - Survival to discharge rate with LMA & AED usage was greater than 20%
 - Gross numbers low because not a highly populated area
 - Six people survived to discharge

- Need to resolve issue of finding resources to develop recruitment program

Motion to accept. Seconded. All in favor.

NJPIES – Dr. Steven Marcus

- Increase in public awareness campaign
 - Partnered with major NJ pharmaceutical company
- Ipecac
 - The FDA is considering not having Ipecac available over the counter
 - It's doubtful that a pharmaceutical company will spend the money on it as a prescription medication
 - American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement to pediatricians that Ipecac is dangerous and should not be kept in the home
 - All research done before 1966.
- Healthcare insurance coverage for prehospital emergency medical services volunteers injured on the job may be an issue (recent case where the hospital was billing the volunteer EMS provider for treatment rendered in response to an exposure)
- If squad member gets sprayed and then needs to be decontaminated, the member is charged for the decontamination

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Not aware of the healthcare charges
- Volunteers covered by municipal worker's compensation
- Issues of police constraints – potential hazardous materials exposure – conflicting information about the necessary/appropriate decontamination of personnel, equipment and vehicle
- Hospitals and proprietary services are excluded from death and disability benefits but allowed for municipally based police and fire units - needs to be investigated
- Proprietary EMTs are the only class of healthcare provider not "protected" by the Good Samaritan Law

All in favor.

EMS FOR CHILDREN (EMSC) – Ms. Nancy Kelly-Goodstein

- 2004 Meeting Dates/Location
 - Tuesday, February 17
 - May 23-24 (incorporated into EMSC conference)
 - Tuesday, August 17 (Mantoloking)
 - Tuesday, November 16
 - 11 am – 1 pm (tentative time change)
 - NJ Hospital Association, 760 Alexander Road, Princeton

- 2 meetings since last EMS Council
 - September 16
 - November 25
- 2004 Conference – May 23-24 (save the date cards distributed)
 - Ramada Inn, East Windsor
 - Planning a physician track on Monday, May 24
- Fall/Winter Newsletter to be mailed within the next several weeks
- NJ Chapter of ACEP formed a new committee on pediatric emergency medicine
 - Dr. Barbara McDevitt (Morristown Memorial Hospital – Atlantic Health System) chair
 - Dove-tail meetings with quarterly EMSC meetings (9 am – 11 am)
 - Purpose
 - Info sharing
 - Best practices
 - Networking
 - Literature review
 - Advocate
 - Research
- Filed application in November for 2nd year of the 3-year partnership grant (03/04-02/05)
- Filed a separate application in November for the emergency department Pediatric Critical Care Registry (03/04-02/07 - \$400,000)
- EpiPen Protocols
 - Pediatric protocol combined with the adult protocol
 - Recommendations for training and medical oversight part of proposal
- Dr. William Gluckman extended an invitation for EMSC representation during the HazMat conference in October at the Middlesex County Fire Academy (tag-team presentation with Dr. Joseph Rella from University Hospital & NJPIES)
- Conducted 3 of 5 regional in-services for school nurses (265 attendees) on Traumatic Brain Injury
 - 12/10 – Bergen Law & Public Safety Institute – Mahwah (90 registered)
 - 12/18 – Atlantic County Institute of Technology – Mays Landing (45 registered)
- In the process of requesting legislators to amend AED bills to include “pediatric-capable” language
- Letter to school administrators
 - Encourage disaster planning
 - Inclusion of school nurses in the planning process
 - Practice the plans developed
 - Establish a minimum equipment list

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- American Heart and EMSC went on record to use pediatric pads.
 - Allowed to go to patients one year of age and older.
- State Dept of Education regulations require schools to have a disaster plan
 - EMSC encouraging school nurses provide input in this plan

All in favor.

LEGISLATIVE – Fred Steinkopf

- Not a lot of legislation moving
- Fire services resource act – introduced legislation to appeal

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- S-3531 to take away need of private motor coach operators to carry PIP
 - Died in committee yesterday

All in favor.

OPERATIONS – Mr. H. Mickey McCabe

- FDA website identified a series of complaints about one specific AED
 - 18 complaints on AED
 - 8 resulted in death
- A question was raised if there is a mechanism in place to notify providers of problematic equipment
- Response – the State website

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Security ID cards for all prehospital personnel
 - Commissioner is aware of recommendation
 - New Division of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response to work on this project

All in favor.

FINANCE – Mr. H. Mickey McCabe

- More municipalities billing for BLS 9-1-1 services
- MTANJ seminar for municipalities
 - Payment – Insurance company should send BLS reimbursement to provider of service
- What is done for ALS should be done for BLS
- Function of EMS finance committee

All in favor.

TRAUMA CENTER – Dr. David Livingston

- New research on alcohol-related payment denials
 - Lack of state statute
 - Trauma centers would like this revisited at legislative level
- Banking and Insurance under pressure to keep auto insurers in the state
- Data provided by NJ Organ Sharing Network
 - 10-15% of all brain injured patients are dieing at non-trauma center hospitals
 - Lack of trauma-triage regulations
- Recommendations for prehospital resources required for mass gatherings
 - Document created in 1997 does not need much changing
 - Who needs the regulations? Municipalities? Promoters?

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Provide municipalities with guidelines as what EMS resources are needed for mass gatherings
- Related cost incurred by sponsoring agency
 - Should the events sponsor pay ALS and BLS providers?

MOTION: Mr. McCabe to chair a committee to develop recommendations for mass gatherings

- Minimum criteria
- Meadowlands Sports Complex may be a good example
- Big events must get permits
- EMS should be included
- Potential for disaster

All in favor.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION – Mr. Robert Dinetz

- Recognized Barbara Aras for all her efforts with the bridge program
- Met with the NJSFAC
- Pilot First Responder to EMT-B crossover to be held at Livingston FAS
 - Limited attendance (based on instructor availability)
 - Open to members of other squads
 - Upon completion of 70-hour bridge course
 - National Registry Exam
 - Students required to master all aspects of required skills and cognitive knowledge
 - The crossover program may assist in recruitment

- Requirements
 - Certified first responders (ARC as per the NJSFAC recommendations for this course)
 - Current certification in Professional Rescuer Level CPR/AED
 - A minimum of 2 years experience (riding time) with local volunteer first aid squad
 - Completion of a certificate of eligibility (similar to EMT Training Fund) attesting to the fact that prerequisites have been met
- Rationale
 - Enhancement of volunteerism (recruitment/retention) through an alternative entry into the EMS BLS provider system
 - Provides credit through life experience (2 years riding time)
 - Provides some “on the job training” training/experience via the introduction of squad as a preceptor and guidance for all eligible first responders in training for the “bridge” process
 - Maintains quality assurance through instruction by state approved EMT course personnel and through administration of NREMT testing process
- Annual instructor course
 - Two weekends in March 2004 at Piscataway High School

Motion to accept. Seconded.

All in favor.

EMT TRAINING FUND – Mr. Robert Dinetz

- Received report from NJSFAC convention
 - Funds well spent
- Frustration with flaws in EMT Training Fund Act
 - Subcommittee for suggested language changes
 - Receive endorsement from EMT Training Fund Council and EMS Council
- 413 personal computers delivered to volunteer FAS.
 - Use to further education

Motion to accept. Seconded. All in favor

NJOEM - No report.

FIRE SERVICES - No report.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (OEMS) – Ms. Karen Halupke

- DHSS reorganization complete effective December 1, 2003
 - Creation of a new Division of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Mr. David Gruber – Assistant Commissioner
- Mr. Gruber reports to Mr. James Blumenstock (Deputy Commissioner)
- Focus of new division
 - Management and Administration
 - Public Health Preparedness
 - Health Emergency Planning and Operation
 - Office of Emergency Healthcare Services
- Regulations
 - Two chapters completed
 - Still working on NJAC 8:40 & NJAC 8:41
- Meeting scheduled with Medical Examiner to help clarify field pronouncement issues
- EMS Awards Dinner
 - May 23, 2004
 - Awards packet to be on DHSS/OEMS website
- League of Municipalities
 - Ms. Halupke and Mr. Steinkopf served on a panel
 - Paid vs. volunteer - major concerns related to billing

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Helicopter regulations moved from NJAC 8:40 to NJAC 8:41
- Progress with tracking ED volume and ED divert
- May request Medical Examiner to meet with MICU Physicians Committee
- Paramedics are not approved to pronounce body parts
- Medicaid provides reimbursement for ALS pronouncements

All in favor.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL – Dr. James Pruden

- Met with Commissioner Lacy and presented recommendations
- Commissioner Lacy suggested the removal of the recommended response times
- Commissioner strongly supports proposed legislature that would financially support the current two-tiered system
- Needs signature page of Blue Ribbon committee members

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Dr. Pruden thanked Ms. Nancy Kelly-Goodstein and Mr. Tom Starr on language of the Panel's recommendations

- Worked with Mr. Steinkopf to develop language focusing on recruitment and retention
- Movement for funding is critical

All in favor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Nominate Dr. Jennifer Waxler as Vice Chairperson

Seconded. All in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Second Annual EMS Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark
 - April 25, 2004 at 12:00 noon
 - Memorial ad book to offset costs
 - The names of any individuals who died in the line of duty (from 2002 to present) will be acknowledged at the Mass
- Tom Starr to chair a committee on monetary support for paramedics
- Public Safety
 - Pushing for definition change

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Pruden recognized the Allentown First Aid Squad for hosting our meetings.
- The next meeting is March 10, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

2004 MEETING DATES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Wednesday, December 15, 2004